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PACA revitalizes Park Avenue neighborhood

STEVEN MROSS
The Sentinel-Record

Although it was originally formed in 1985, the Park Avenue Community Association has stepped up its campaign to revitalize the oldest neighborhood in the city in recent years and has no plans to slow down anytime soon.

"It was a mess," Hannah Mills, a longtime PACA board member and former president, said Friday of Park Avenue in the mid-1980s. Mills notes that District 1 Justice of the Peace David Reagan, who represents the Park Avenue area, was one of PACA's founders.

> *"The people who were determined to make changes slowly but surely changed the attitudes of all those people with negative thoughts. The ones who said 'You can't do anything. It's dead. It's gone.'"*
>
> **— Hannah Mills, PACA board member**

"It was a group of homeowners who were distressed by the rundown neighborhoods and everything that was affecting property values and the way they lived their lives. You couldn't go outdoors at night. There were all sorts of problems," Mills said.

"They decided the only way to bring the neighborhood back was to start working together," she said. "It was first formed as a neighborhood watch group and then evolved into PACA in 1985."

When Mills moved into the neighborhood in 1995, she got involved. "David would not have it any other way," she said, laughing. "If you were living here, then you were in."

She said the group encountered a lot of negativity in the beginning, but "the people who were determined to make changes slowly but surely changed the attitudes of all those people with negative thoughts. The ones who said 'You can't do anything. It's dead. It's gone.'"

Mills said PACA members were strong in their beliefs "because there is so much to offer in this neighborhood. The vintage homes, the rock walls and the trees. This area is cooler in the summer than the rest of the city."

Angie Ezekiel, current PACA president, said, "We're the greenest neighborhood with the densest tree cover in the city. Parks and Trails did an overall study and we have the most trees. That and the creek make a big difference."

The group's recent "Light Uptown" project, with plans to install 77 antique-style streetlights from the curb

REVITALIZES, PAGE 4A

The Sentinel-Record/Richard Rasmussen

HAVE A SEAT: The seating side of the planned amphitheater at the David F. Watkins Memorial Tunnel Park, located in the 800 block of Park Avenue, has been finished with work on the stage to begin as soon as the bidding process for the project is completed. The park is one of the Park Avenue Community Association's many projects .

The Sentinel-Record/Richard Rasmussen

TRAINING DAYS: Firefighters walk around the Hot Spring Fire Department's new mobile simulator at the Vernel Street training grounds Thursday. It features numerous training applications, including two burn rooms.

Proving grounds

Simulator prepares firefighters for facing real thing

DAVID SHOWERS
The Sentinel-Record

The adrenaline and stress inherent to firefighting are difficult to replicate in a controlled environment, but the Hot Springs Fire Department's new mobile simulator can recreate scenarios that evoke

SIMULATOR, PAGE 10A

The Sentinel-Record/Richard Rasmussen

BURN ROOM: Ty Farris, the fire department's training officer, shows how the control box for the gas-powered burn room works.

National Park College receives art collection

LINDSEY WELLS
The Sentinel-Record

National Park College received a generous donation of art from the Allen Tillery family this month, a collection of 47 original pieces by contemporary artist Shwan Ziwar.

According to his website, Ziwar's work hangs in galleries worldwide, including the prestigious Canadian Museum of Civilization. He has participated in more than 50 exhibitions in Italy, Canada and the United States. Born in Iraq, and educated at Italy's Academy of Fine Arts in Perugia, Ziwar is now based in Toronto, Canada.

Ziwar describes his style as "Shwanism," which he said is "a production that incorporates color and movement and love," a news release said. His dominant themes include flowers, men, women, faces, images embedded in lines, waves, landscapes, love and humor.

"The NPC Foundation has grown because of the philanthropic support of our community. We are grateful to have donors like the Tillerys and excited to display this art collection on our campus. This is truly a generous gift," Sara Brown, NPC's director of development, said in the release.

Brown said the collection has been in the Tillery family for several years.

"The Tillery family is proud to support National Park College with this gift. We wanted the collection to have a special showcase and we know the college is the right location for such a unique assortment. We hope the campus and the community will enjoy it as much as we have," Allen Tillery said.

ART, PAGE 4A

Through the mud

The Sentinel-Record/Richard Rasmussen

Saturday's eighth race for 3-year-olds and up at Oaklawn Park attracted 10 horses for the $78,000 purse. The race was followed by the Grade 3 $150,000 Bayakoa Stakes. Full coverage of the Bayakoa and Oaklawn's full Saturday race card begins on Page 1B.

McMaster: Meddling beyond dispute

DESMOND BUTLER
DAVID RISING
The Associated Press

MUNICH — President Donald Trump's national security adviser said Saturday there was "incontrovertible" evidence of a Russian plot to disrupt the 2016 U.S. election, a blunt statement that shows how significantly the new criminal charges leveled by an American investigator have upended the political debate over his inquiry.

The statement by H.R. McMaster at the Munich Security Conference stood in stark contrast to Trump's oft repeated claim that Russian interference in his election victory was a hoax.

"As you can see with the FBI indictment, the evidence is now really incontrovertible and available in the public domain," McMaster told a Russian delegate to the conference.

The detailed document presented the most compelling

MEDDLING, PAGE 3A

Florida, angry and grieving, takes protest to streets

JASON DEAREN
ALLEN BREED
TAMARA LUSH
The Associated Press

PARKLAND, Fla. — Thousands of angry students, parents, teachers and neighbors of a Florida high school where 17 people were killed demanded Saturday that immediate action be taken on gun-control legislation, insisting they would not relent until their demands were met.

The rally in downtown Fort Lauderdale gave a political outlet to the growing feelings of rage and mourning sparked by the carnage at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Authorities say a former student who had been expelled, had mental health issues and been reported to law enforcement, used a legally purchased semi-automatic rifle to kill students and staff.

"Because of these gun laws, people that I know, people that I love, have died, and I will never be able to see them again," Delaney Tarr, a student at the school, told the crowd swamping the

FLORIDA, PAGE 6A

8 32116 00100 4

Weather

CHANCE OF SHOWERS. HIGHS AROUND 60. LOWS IN MID 50S.

SUNRISE: 6:56 A.M.
SUNSET: 5:59 P.M.

MONDAY:
HIGH 72° LOW 62°

TUESDAY:
HIGH 73° LOW 52°

MORE ON PAGE 2A

Index

Arts, etc.	2E	Obituaries	7A
Classified	1-8F	Viewpoints	6-7B
Sports	1-5B	Statistics	8B
FYI	2A	School	8-10A
Lifestyles	4-6E	TV Listing	7F

Quote of the day

"The lack of a sense of history is the damnation of the modern world."
Robert Penn Warren, American author, poet and critic (1905-1989)